

**PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 998**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 3295**

**By Representatives Vaughn, Hardaway**

**Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 2632**

**By Senators McNally, Harper, Marrero, Raymond Finney**

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 1, Part 3, relative to providing emergency dental services to indigents.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-1-301, is amended by deleting the present language in its entirety and by substituting instead the following language:

Section 68-1-301. The commissioner of health has general supervision of the interests of health and life of the citizens of this state, with special reference to the care and preservation of the mouth and teeth. With an understanding of the need to address the lack of resources available for the treatment of adult emergency dental situations, the commissioner will, in conjunction with professional organizations comprised of dental and related health care providers, organizations representing dental health recipients and other key stakeholders, develop a statewide strategy for the provisions of adult emergency oral health care, utilizing public and private sector resources. The commissioner will report to the legislature on the progress of this strategy no later than January 15, 2009.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-1-304, is amended by designating the present language as subsection (a) and by adding the following language as a new subsection (b):

(b) County health departments, both rural and metro, with existing dental staff and facilities receiving state or federal funds, shall as a high priority to the extent possible within budgetary limitations, provide indigent children with comprehensive dental services and indigent adults with emergency dental services for the relief of pain and infections.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008, the public welfare requiring it.

**PASSED: May 7, 2008**



JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



RON RAMSEY, SPEAKER  
SENATE OF THE SENATE

**APPROVED this 21st day of May 2008**



PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR